

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAMA 01210 282325Z

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ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IGA-01 EB-07 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2538

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 1210

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y ("PER MONTH " ADDED PARA 3)

E.O. 11652 : GDS

TAGS : AFSP, EAID, BA

SUBJECT : TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR BAHRAIN

REFERENCE : STATE 251439

1. ON BASIS HELPFUL REFTEL, I SAW SHIRAWI OCTOBER 26 JUST PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR CHATHAM HOUSE CONFERENCE IN UK. EXPLAINED STATUS OF U.S. EXECUTIVE'S ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL FOR UP TO TEN TECHNICAL ADVISORS FOR BAHRAIN AND URGED NECESSITY OF PROMPT GOB REVIEW OF TYPES OF ADVISORS DESIRED AND PRIORITIES.

2. SHIRAWI EMPHASIZED URGENT GOB NEED FOR UP TO FIVE ADVISORS, STRESSING THAT ARRIVAL OF UP TO FIVE BY END OF YEAR WOULD BE FAR MORE DESIRABLE THAN ARRIVAL OF ALL TEN SEVERAL MONTHS LATER. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT WHILE THE FIVE PRIORITY SLOTS SPELLED OUT IN MANAMA 0226 ARE STILL NEEDED AND JUSTIFIED, RECENT GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION DOES REQUIRE GOB REVIEW. HE NOTED CANDIDLY THAT OF ORIGINAL FIVE POSITIONS REQUESTED, FOUR WERE MORE OR LESS UNDER HIS CONTROL PRIOR TO REORGANIZATION WHILE NOW THEY FELL UNDER OTHER MINISTRIES. HENCE, HE COULD NOT SPEAK AUTHORITATIVELY FOR CABINET COLLEAGUES BUT MUST REFER MATTER TO CABINET. HE PROMISED TO REQUEST THAT, IN HIS ABSENCE, A RESPONSIBLE GOB MINISTER, PROBABLY THE FOREIGN MINISTER, RESPOND TO MY NEED FOR TIGHTEST
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PAGE 02 MANAMA 01210 282325Z

POSSIBLE DEFINITION OF FIVE HIGHEST PRIORITY ADVISORY SLOTS.

3. I URGED ON SHIRAWI NEED FOR GOB TO DESIGNATE ONE MIDDLE-LEVEL OFFICIAL FULLY AUTHORIZED TO DEAL WITH EMBASSY ON ALL ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADVISORS, BUT I DID NOT GET FIRM COMMITMENT OF THIS SCORE. TO REVIEW PRESENT THINKING RE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, ASSUME DEPARTMENT UNDERSTANDS THAT EACH ADVISOR WOULD BE EXPECTED TO RELY SOLELY ON THE GOB MINISTRY WITH WHICH HE IS WORKING FOR ALL FUNCTIONAL SUPPORT SUCH AS OFFICE FACILITIES AND CLERICAL AND OTHER STAFF HELP. GOB IS VERBALLY COMMITTED TO PAY \$12,000 PER ADVISOR YEAR, TO FURNISH HOUSING (WHICH, BY OUR ESTIMATE, WOULD BE WORTH AT LEAST \$1,000 PER MONTH IN BAHRAIN IF RENTED ON THE MARKET), AND TO PROVIDE A SMALL TRANSPORTATION ALLOWANCE OF APPROXIMATELY \$1,000 A YEAR WHICH COULD BE PAID EITHER IN A LUMP SUM TO THE USG OR TO THE INDIVIDUAL ADVISOR. THUS, AS WE SEE IT, TO A LARGE EXTENT EMBASSY SUPPORT RESPONSIBILITY WOULD INVOLVE GETTING ADVISORS SETTLED HERE, SEEING THAT SUFFICIENT CONTRACT SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE FOR HOUSING MAINTENANCE AND OTHER NEEDS, AND PROVIDING BUDGET AND FISCAL SERVICES. GOB IS SO PRESSED FOR HOUSING FOR EXPATRIATE EXPERTS THAT IT PROBABLY IS UNREALISTIC TO ASSUME WE WILL HAVE FIRM HANDLE ON SPECIFIC HOUSING ARRANGEMENTS UNTIL WE ARE ABLE TO MAKE COMMITMENT RE ARRIVAL DATE OF INDIVIDUAL ADVISORS. WE ARE FURTHER INCREASINGLY PERSUADED OF NEED FOR TDY OF AID ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER PRIOR TO ARRIVAL OF FIRST EXPERT NOT ONLY TO LAY SOUND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT GROUNDWORK, BUT ALSO TO DETERMINE PRECISELY HOW MUCH ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AID PROGRAM WILL REQUIRE.

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